

Meeting: COUNCIL

Agenda Item:

14

Date: 20 JULY 2016

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To appoint two Deputy Electoral Registration Officers to assist the Electoral Registration Officer in the registration of electors

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the following officers be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers –
- Constitutional Services Manager
 - Electoral Services Manager

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is required to appoint an officer of the Council to be –
- the Electoral Registration Officer in line with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and
 - The Returning Officer in line with Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- 3.2 The Council has appointed the Chief Executive as both the Electoral Registration Officer and the Returning Officer but unlike the appointment of a Deputy Returning Officer, where legislation allows the Returning Officer to appoint deputies, there is no such provision made in legislation for deputies to be appointed by the Electoral Registration Officer. The appointment of deputy Electoral Registration Officers must be made by the Council.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 Individual electoral registration took effect on 10 June 2014 and in time this process may require a number of electoral registration hearings to be held in order to determine registration applications, objections to registration and registration reviews. At present any such hearings can only be heard by the Electoral Registration Officer.
- 4.2 To date no such hearings have been necessary, but if required they will need to be arranged within a relatively short space of time in order to prevent any delays in determining registration applications.
- 4.3 The appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers will alleviate the need for the Electoral Registration Officer to be involved at every hearing and allow applications, objections and reviews to be swiftly dealt with.
- 4.4 The knowledge and experience required for the posts of Constitutional Services Manager and Electoral Services Manager equips these officers to undertake the duties of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 This appointment is in accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- 5.2.2 (All reports routed to the Executive must be forwarded to Legal for clearance at least 5 clear days before the deadline for final approval and acceptance onto an agenda by Committee Services.)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- BD1 – Representation of the People Act 1983
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2>
- BD 2 – Electoral Administration Act 2013
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/6/contents/enacted>

APPENDICES

None